

## Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office Sponsors a Spooktacular BOOth

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Field Supervisor Steve Ricks and his children had fun digging for worms at the Service BOOth.

*Photo credit: Terri Jacobson, FWS*

About 700 people walked the lighted pumpkin trails at the Clinton Community Nature Center's Spooktacular held on Saturday evening, October 29, 2011. The Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office (MFO) sponsored a BOOth at this annual outreach event. People who stopped at the MFO BOOth learned about black bears, bats and worms.

Did you know that there are over 4,000 species of worms in the world? Gummy worms are not counted in that number, but they were included in the 245 litter bags – disguised as treat bags – that "Scarecrow Dan" passed out at the MFO BOOth. Also inside the bags were coloring sheets, FWS pencils, and bat stickers.

Scarecrow Dan, a.k.a. Daniel Gregg, MFO wildlife biologist, set up and worked the FWS BOOth during the Spooktacular. Also at the event were Field Supervisor Steve Ricks and his family. Steve helped his three youngest children dig in the dirt for rubber worms with a kitchen utensil costumed as a "bird beak".

Other MFO staff that helped with the Spooktacular by donating supplies and/or preparing for the event included: Denise Davis, Connie Dickard, Dan Gregg, Terri Jacobson, Cary Norquist, Alex Ramsey, Steve Ricks, Ryan Theel, and Scott Wiggers.

The Clinton Community Nature Center (CCNC) and the MFO are dedicated to the goal of connecting people with nature and are partners in outreach events, educational programming and trail maintenance. Staff from MFO can earn their "I Gave Eight" outreach hours by volunteering at the nature center. The CCNC is a small, nonprofit facility consisting of 33 acres of woodlands and trails preserved in the middle of an established neighborhood in Clinton, Mississippi.



The Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office BOOth at the Clinton Community Nature Center.

*Photo credit: Terri Jacobson, FWS*



Biologist Dan Gregg works the Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office BOOth.

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